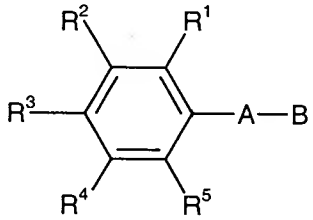
CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a disease responsive to modulation of the mGluR5a receptors comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula

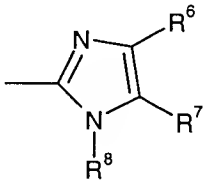
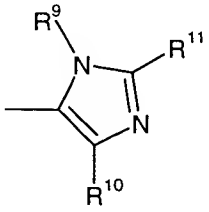
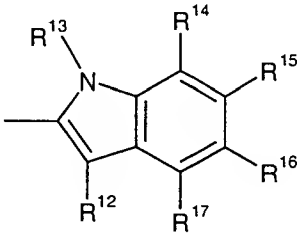


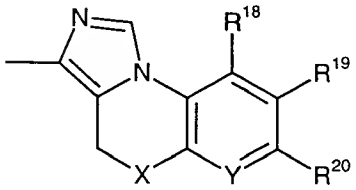
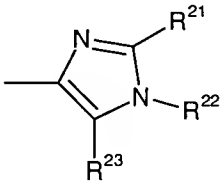
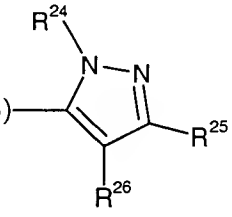
I

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;
R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

A is selected from the group consisting of -CH=CH- and -C≡C-; and

B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6) 

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$, halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-OH$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR''$ and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is $-(CH_2)_n-N(R)-C(O)$-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl carrying at least one substituents selected from hydroxy and halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl or nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

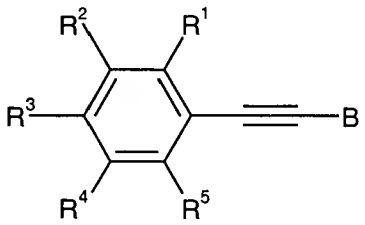
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

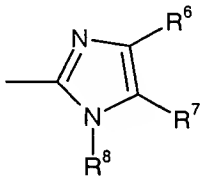
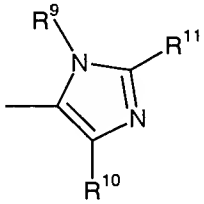
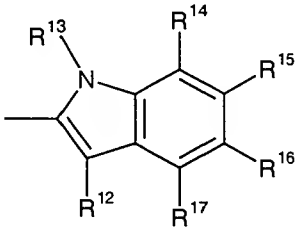
2. A method of treating a disease responsive to modulation of the mGluR5a receptors comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula

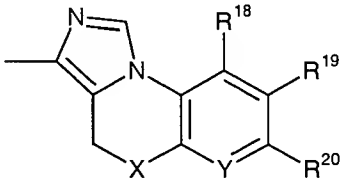
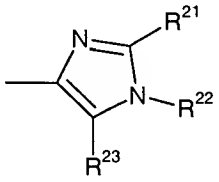
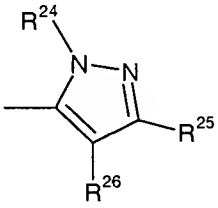


I-A

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen or lower alkyl; and B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consistining of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen or lower alkoxy;

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R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

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R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

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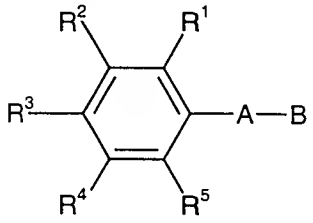
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A method of treating pain comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula



I

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R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

A is selected from the group consisting of -CH=CH- and -C≡C-; and

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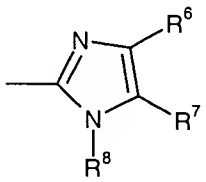
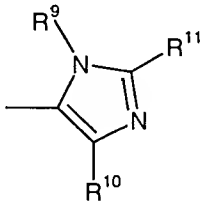
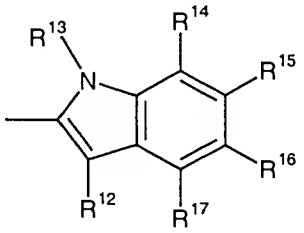
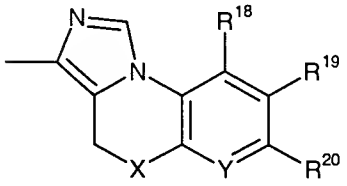
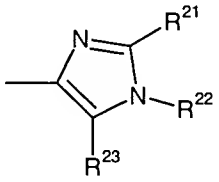
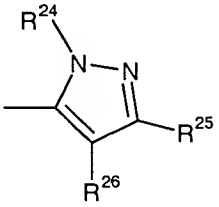
B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

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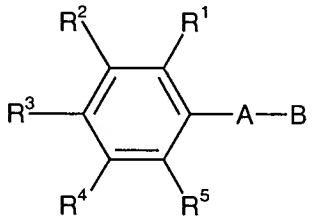
4. A method of treating anxiety or depression comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula



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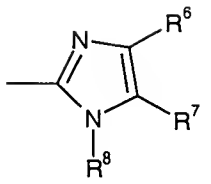
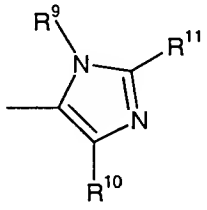
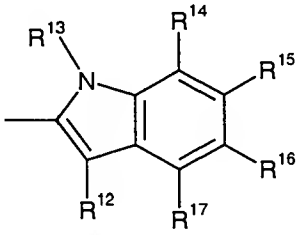
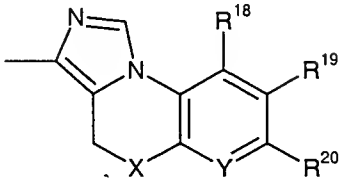
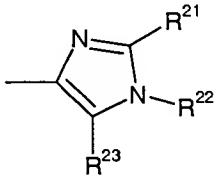
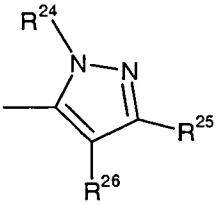
B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR$ and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$, halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-OH, $-(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl carrying at least one substituent selected from hydroxy or halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

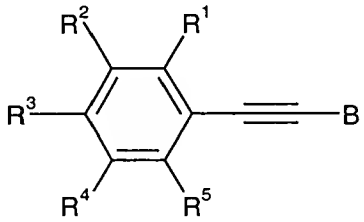
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

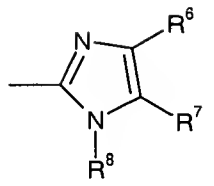
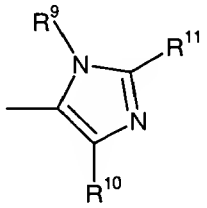
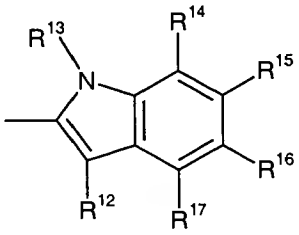
5. A method of treating pain comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula

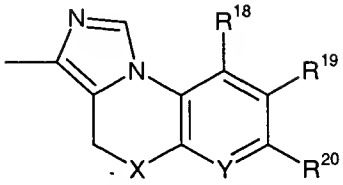
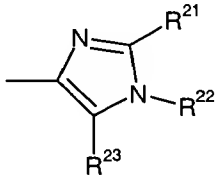
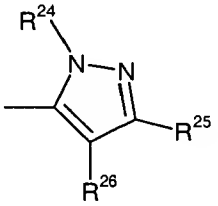


I-A

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl; and B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro or unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

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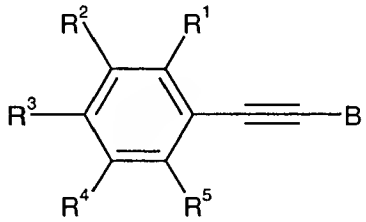
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

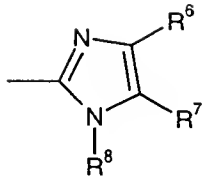
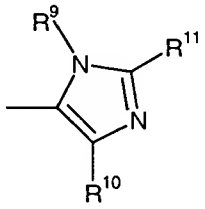
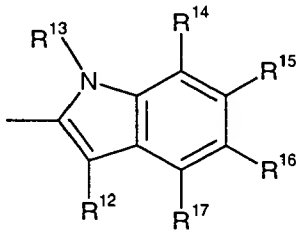
6. A method of treating anxiety or depression comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula

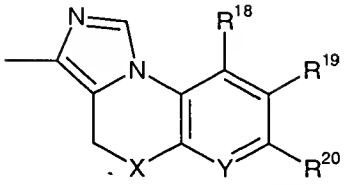
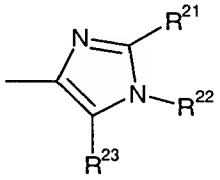
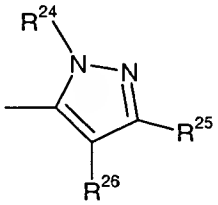


I-A

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl; and B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro or unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl carrying at least one substituent selected from hydroxy or halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl or nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

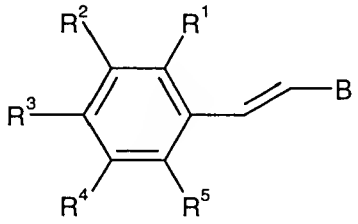
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

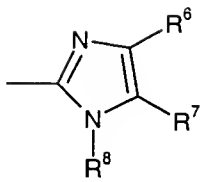
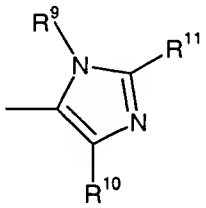
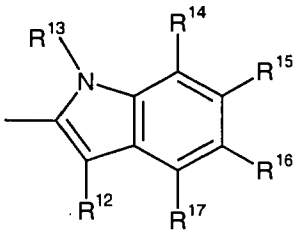
7. A method of treating a disease in a person responsive to modulation of the mGluR5a receptors comprising administering to the person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the compound of formula

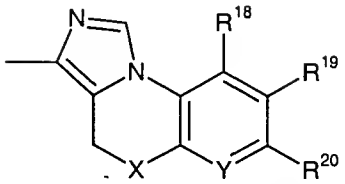
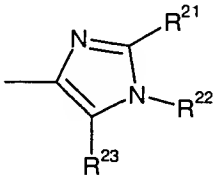
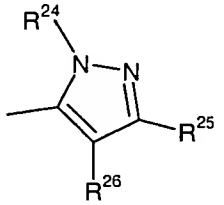


I-B

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl residues;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyland B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro, and unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consistining of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl andlower alkyl carrying at least one substituent selected from hydroxy and halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

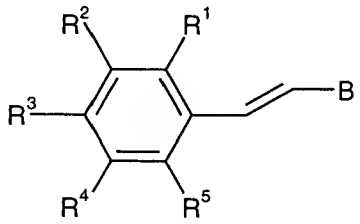
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

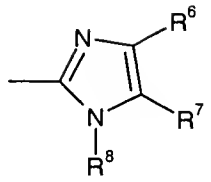
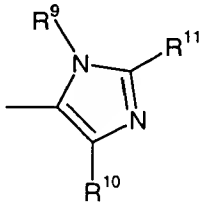
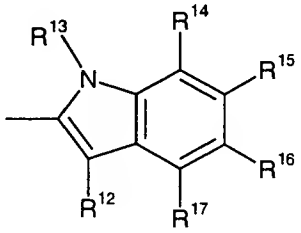
8. A method of treating pain comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula

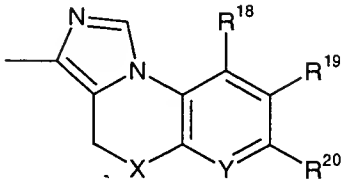
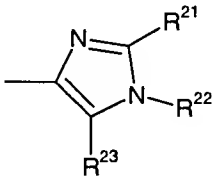
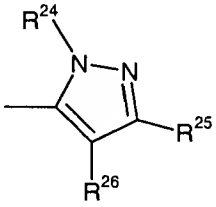


I-B

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl and B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl carrying at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy or halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

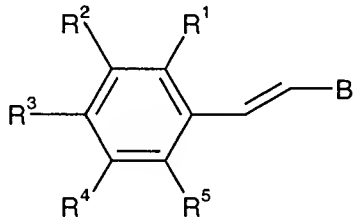
n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= or –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

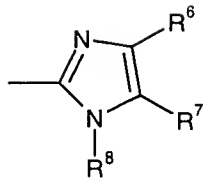
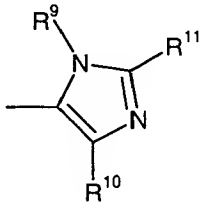
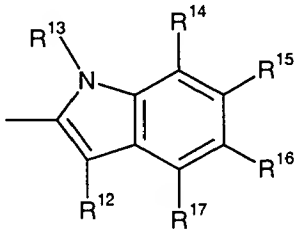
9. A method of treating anxiety or depression comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula

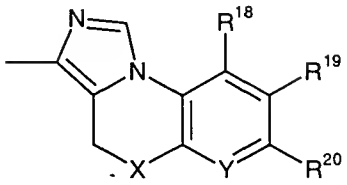
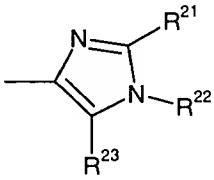
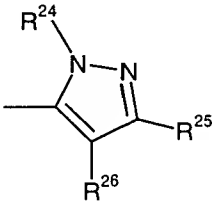


I-B

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl and B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR$ and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$, halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroarylsubstituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-OH$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR''$ and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is-$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of, hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl carrying at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy or halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X selected from the group consisting of-CH_2-, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= or –N=;

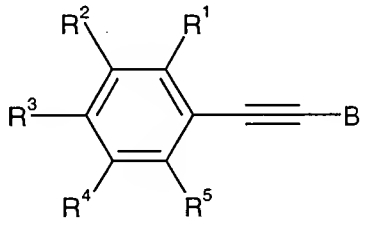
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a racemic or optically active form and a pharmaceutically inert carrier.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1A or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically inert carrier.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1B or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically inert carrier.

13. A compound of formula



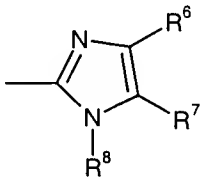
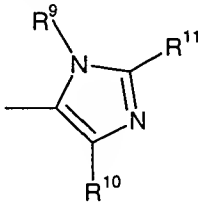
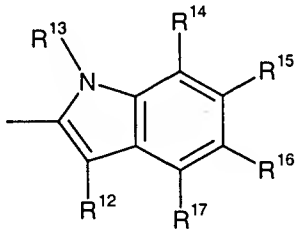
I-A

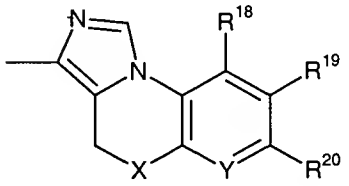
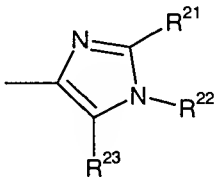
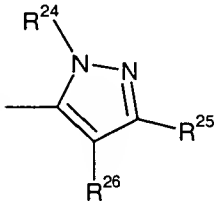
wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and $R^5$are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by one or more lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

B is selected from the group consisting of

B1)  ; B2)  ; B3)  ;

B4)  ; B5)  and B6)  ;

wherein

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR$ and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$, halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-OH$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR"$ and aryl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and halogen;

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^{12} is $(CH_2)_n-N(R)-C(O)$-lower alkyl;

R^{13} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen or lower alkoxy;

R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen and lower alkoxy;

R^{21} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^{22} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl and lower alkyl substituted by at least one substitutent selected from hydroxy or halogen;

R^{23} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl and nitro;

R^{24}, R^{25} and R^{26} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

X is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-$, -O- and -S-; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of –CH= and –N=;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the exception of

1-methyl-2-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole,

1-methyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-1H-imidazole,

1-methyl-5-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole, and

1-methyl-4-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole.

14. A compound according to claim 13, wherein B signifies B1.

15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^7 signifies $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$ or unsubstituted heteroaryl or heteroaryl substituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl.

16. A compound selected from the group consisting of

3,5-dimethyl-2-phenylethynyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

5-methyl-2-phenylethynyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

2-(3-methoxy-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

2-(2,6-dichloro-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

5-methyl-1-phenyl-2-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

3,5-dimethyl-2-m-tolylethynyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

2-(3-acetylamino-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

2-[3-(2,5-dimethyl-pyrrol-1-yl)-phenylethynyl]-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,

5-(3,5-dimethyl-2-phenylethynyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl)-3-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazole,
3-cyclopropyl-5-(3,5-dimethyl-2-phenylethynyl-3H-imidazol-4-yl)-[1,2,4]oxadiazole,
2-(4-chloro-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
2-(4-fluoro-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
2-biphenyl-4-ylethynyl-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester,
2-(2-fluoro-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, and
2-(4-amino-phenylethynyl)-3,5-dimethyl-3H-imidazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

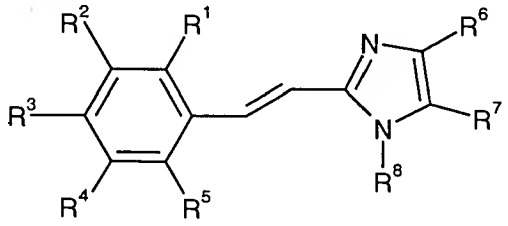
17. A compound selected from the group consisting of
2-(5-nitro-2-phenylethynyl-imidazol-1-yl)-ethanol,
2-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole,
2-(2-fluoro-phenylethynyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
2-(2-chloro-phenylethynyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazole and
(4,5-dichloro-2-phenylethynyl-imidazol-1-yl)-acetic acid ethyl ester.

18. A compound, N-[2-(5-methoxy-2-phenylethynyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-ethyl]-acetamide.

19. A compound selected from the group consisting of
3-phenylethynyl-4H-5-thia-2,6,9b-triaza-cyclopenta[a]naphthalene and
3-phenylethynyl-4H-5-oxa-2,9b-diaza-cyclopenta[a]naphthalene.

20. A compound selected from the group consisting of
1-chloro-3-(2-methyl-5-nitro-4-phenylethynyl-imidazol-1-yl)-propan-2-ol,
3-methyl-5-phenylethynyl-3H-imidazole-4-carbaldehyde,
4-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole and
1,2-dimethyl-5-nitro-4-phenylethynyl-1H-imidazole.

21. A compound of formula



I-B-1

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_n$-NRR', $-(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl or unsubstituted heteroaryl , heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

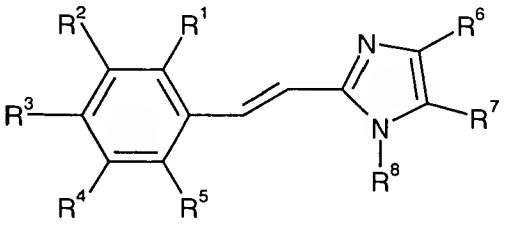
R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-OH, $-(CH_2)_n$ -C(O)OR" or aryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. A method of treating pain comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a compound of formula



I-B-1

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

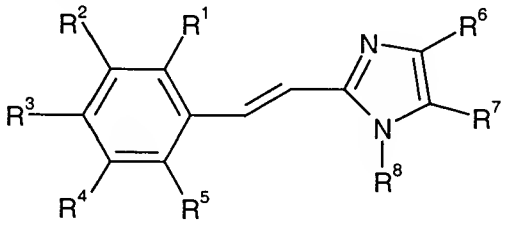
R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR', halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-OH, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR" and aryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. A method of treating anxiety or depression comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a compound of formula



I-B-1

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl;

R, R' and R" are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-C(O)OR and halogen;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$, halogen, nitro, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by lower alkyl or cycloalkyl; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n-OH$, $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR''$ and aryl;

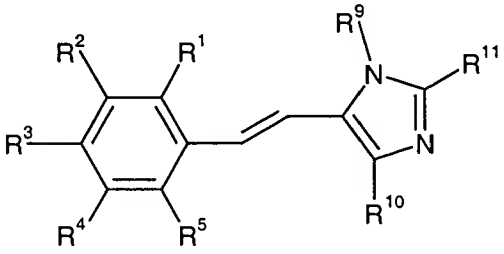
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1B-1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically inert carrier.

25. A compound according to claim 21, wherein R^7 signifies lower alkyl or $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)OR'$.

26. A compound selected from the group consisting of
4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-2-styryl-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(4-butoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
4,5-diisopropyl-2-[2-(4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethyl-phenyl)-vinyl]-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
4,5-diisopropyl-2-[2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(4-chloro-3-fluoro-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole,
4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-2-[2-(2,3,4-trimethoxy-phenyl)-vinyl]-1H-imidazole,
2-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-vinyl]-4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-1H-imidazole and
4,5-diisopropyl-1-methyl-2-(2-p-tolyl-vinyl)-1H-imidazole.

27. A compound of formula



I-B-2

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl;

R and R'are independently selected from the group consiting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

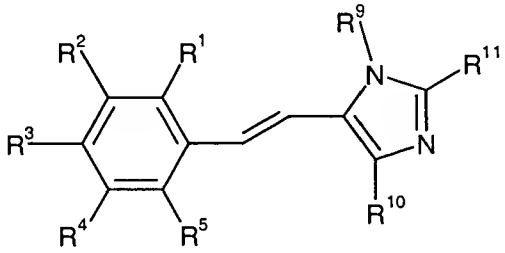
R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is halogen; and

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. A method of treating pain comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula



I-B-2

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_n$-NRR', -$(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl residues;

R and R'are selected from the group consiting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

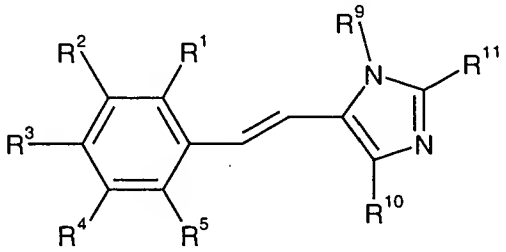
R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is halogen; and

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or alkyl;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. A method of treating anxiety or depression comprising administering to a person in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula



I-B-2

wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$-halogen, lower alkoxy, $-(CH_2)_n$-NRR', $-(CH_2)_n$-N(R)-C(O)-lower alkyl, aryl, unsubstituted heteroaryl and heteroaryl substituted by at least one lower alkyl residues;

R and R'are selected from the group consiting of hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^9 is lower alkyl;

R^{10} is halogen; and

R^{11} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or alkyl;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula 1B-2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically inert carrier.

31. A compound, 4-bromo-1-methyl-5-styryl-1H-imidazole.